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Current Events

[Edited by Clarence W. Gleason, Roxbury Latin School, Roxbury, Mass., for the territory covered by the Association of New England and the Atlantic States; Daniel W. Lothman, East High School, Cleveland, Ohio, for the Middle States, west to the Mississippi River; Walter Miller, University of Missouri, Columbia, Mo., for the Southern States; and by Frederick C. Eastman, the University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa, for the territory west of the Mississippi, exclusive of Louisiana and Texas. This department will present everything that is properly news—occurrences from month to month, meetings, changes in faculties, performances of various kinds, etc. All news items should be sent to the associate editors named above.]

Arkansas

The Foreign Language Section of the Arkansas State Teachers' Association met in the classical room of the high-school building in Little Rock Thursday afternoon, April 8, with Professor L. E. Winfrey, of the department of modern languages in Hendrix College, as chairman. In the absence of the secretary, Professor H. H. Strauss, of the department of Latin in the University of Arkansas, G. A. Simmons, of the department of classics in Hendrix College, was chosen as secretary. Quite a large number of both ancient- and modern-language teachers were present to hear the following program: "Can Best Results Be Secured by Means of the Direct Method?" "Yes," Miss Fannie Baker, Fort Smith; "No," Miss Mercy Lewis, Little Rock; discussion, L. E. Winfrey. "Is Prose Composition Worth the Price?" Miss Leora Blair, Fort Smith; discussion, Alvin Good, Little Rock. "How Can We Increase the Interest in Modern Languages in Our State?" Miss Winnie Timmons, Conway; discussion, J. J. Harrison, Fordyce. "A Plan for the Study of English Derivatives." G. A. Simmons, Conway; discussion, Miss Catherine Murphy, Pine Bluff. "Our Aim in Modern-Language Instruction," general discussion. "Reconstruction of the Latin Course to Bring It into Harmony with the Twentieth-Century School," general discussion.

The papers were all good and for the most part full of practical suggestions; and the discussion of each was full and interesting. Especially spirited was the discussion of the first and last topics. The consensus of opinion in the first instance was that in both ancient and modern languages our aim was to teach how to read (not translate or speak) and feel with understanding the language, and that the direct method ought to be used only in so far as it helps to this end. In the second case all agreed that Caesar and Cicero must by all means be retained, but that perhaps more interesting selections from the fifth and sixth books of Caesar might be substituted for the less interesting and more difficult portions of the first four books; and that prose composition based

on the previous lesson ought to be taught, a few sentences daily, rather than a long lesson of detached sentences not related to the text read, once a week.

The following Arkansas teachers attended the meeting of the Classical Association at Nashville, April 2-3: H. H. Strauss, University of Arkansas; D. A. Williams, Galloway College; W. D. Reynolds and G. A. Simmons, Hendrix College.

California

Los Angeles.—An interesting entertainment was recently given by the Classical Club of the Los Angeles High School. A Roman banquet was given in the cafeteria of the high school which was attended by about seventy-five guests, including a number from neighboring high schools. The program was given during the progress of the dinner. The dramatic performance consisted of two scenes from the *Aeneid*, cast into dramatic form by Mr. Walter A. Edwards. At the close George D. Kellogg's Latin version of "America" was sung. Each guest was garbed in Roman costume, and Roman banqueting arrangements were observed as far as possible. As the loving-cup was passed, each one rose and gave some appropriate sentiment in Latin, either quoted or original. The paper used for the program and menu was in close imitation of papyrus. The performance is to be repeated by request before the whole body of students. The actors were drilled by Miss Lena Cooper, of the expression department.

The Classical Association of Southern California held its annual meeting with the Los Angeles High School on March 20. The program was as follows: "Roman Baths and Aqueducts" (illustrated), Dr. W. D. Ward, Occidental College; "A Tourist's Impressions of Naples and Its Neighborhood," Miss Norma Curtis Wood, Pomona; "The Personality of Julius Caesar," Dr. Monroe E. Deutsch, University of California; Round Table: "Latin Composition," Miss Mildred Price, Covina.

The officers elected for the ensuing year are as follows: President, Professor H. L. Lunt, University of Southern California, Los Angeles; Vice-President, Miss Mary Wentworth, Berendo Street Intermediate School, Los Angeles; Secretary-Treasurer, Miss Norma Curtis Wood, Pomona, California.

Illinois

Murphysboro.—At the Murphysboro Township High School, an exhibit of illustrative work in Latin was recently given, patterned after the exhibit given a few years ago by Miss Sabin at a meeting of the Classical Association of the Middle West and South at Cincinnati. About fifty posters, prepared by the pupils of the Latin department, were on display in the Latin classroom. The exhibit was open for inspection at the time of the meeting of the Southern Illinois Teachers' Association, April 8-10. Considerable interest in the exhibit was manifested by many of the Latin teachers from southern Illinois.

Kentucky

Midway.—On the evening of April 10, 1915, the students of the Latin department of the Kentucky Female Orphan School, Midway, Kentucky, gave an interesting entertainment under the direction of Miss Nell Whaley, instructor in Latin. The program opened with the ever-loved "Gaudeamus Igitur," sung by an invisible quartette. Thereupon the curtains opened upon the Roman Senate, composed of Junior girls, with "Cicero" hurling invectives upon the head of "Catiline" with truly Ciceronian fluency and vim. Then followed a dramatization from Caesar's campaign against Ariovistus—the part in which the Gauls, by their description of the terrible Germans, so frightened the Roman soldiers that they wept, made their wills, and begged Caesar to allow them to go home. The third scene was the study hall, with the teacher absent. The conversations were carried on in Latin. The audience appreciated these brief scenes because, as some said, the pupils spoke Latin as fluently as English. The fourth scene, "The Gods in Council," was a beautiful spectacular effect in costume, with speaking parts that were rendered without an error. The throne draperies, chitons, helmets, shields, spears, sandals, the trident, the lyre, the caduceus, and other emblems of the gods used in the scene, had been made by the girls at a small expense. The entertainment closed with the singing, behind the curtains, of the first eleven lines of Virgil.

New York

Vassar College.—The Latin Journal Club of Vassar College was founded March 6, 1902; the charter members were Miss Clemence Hamilton, Miss Grace H. Macurdy, Mr. J. Leverett Moore, Miss Elizabeth H. Palmer, Miss Catharine Saunders, Miss Winifred Warren. The following have since been added: Misses Emily H. Dutton, Elizabeth H. Haight, Grace Guthrie, Mary B. Peaks, Elizabeth M. Perkins, Ida C. Thallon, Abby Leach, Florence M. Bennett, Florence A. Gragg, Lily R. Taylor, Ethel H. Brewster, Katharine M. Cochran.

The club meets at the houses of the members every other week, or about twenty times a year; it has held in all 269 meetings. The object of the club's formation was to aid the members in keeping up with the journal literature in Latin, and with that end in view the principal classical journals were assigned to the various members of the club and the reports upon these constituted the leading part at the club meetings. The club has also listened to letters and accounts of excavations and visits to classical sites—the Palatine, Hadrian's Wall, and Newstead—and to reports of the annual meetings of philological and archaeological societies. Another important feature has been the reviews of books often prepared for publication in classical journals. At one time the club took up the lives of great classical scholars—Bentley, Porson, Jowett, Erasmus, Melancthon, and Casaubon—or read the plays of Plautus or read and discussed in Latin—*colloquia Latina*—an oration of Cicero (*Pro rege*

Deiotaro) or one of his philosophical works (*De natura deorum*). It has also considered topics of somewhat wider interest, such as the relation of the College Entrance Examination Board to the new requirements in Latin and the comparative efficiency of the four usual modes of entering college—College Entrance Examination Board, Regents, certificate, or a combination—as tested by the Latin marks of the Freshman year.

The following papers have been read before the club and in a number of cases subsequently published: Miss Haight: "Horace as an Advocate of the Simple Life"; "An Experience with the *Aeneid*"; "Are the *Epistles* of Horace Poetry?" "The Site of Horace's Farm"; "The Story of Cupid and Psyche in Ancient Art"; Miss Macurdy: "The *Heracleidae* of Euripides"; "Vergil's Use of *Märchen* from the *Odyssey*"; "The Giant Rhoeteus in Horace C. 2. 19"; "The Greek Spirit and the Poetry of Arnold and Swinburne"; "The Connection of Paeon with Paeonia"; Mr. Moore: "The Idea of Immortality among the Greeks and Romans"; "The Relief of Children under the Empire"; "Roman Banking under the Republic"; "University Life in the Third Century A.D."; "The Provincial Councils of the Roman Empire"; Miss Peaks: "The Date of the Duenos Inscription"; Miss Saunders: "Altars on the Roman Stage"; Miss Taylor: "The Religious Cults of Ostia"; Miss Thallon: "The Date of Damophon."

Professor Gilbert Murray of Oxford University, Professor James S. Reid of Cambridge University, Professor Charles E. Bennett of Cornell University have been entertained as guests of the club.

Ohio

Wilmington.—Wilmington College has organized a classical club under the supervision of M. Elsie McCoy, professor of Latin. The meetings thus far have been interesting and valuable. At the last meeting of the club Denver Williams, a student, described his visit to the Catacombs and illustrated his talk with postal cards procured at Rome.

Pennsylvania

The Philadelphia Society for the Promotion of Liberal Studies held its second annual meeting at the Drexel Institute, March 27, with an attendance of about two hundred members and friends of the society. Among those present from the University of Pennsylvania were Professor J. C. Rolfe, Professor W. B. McDaniel, and Assistant Professor G. D. Hadzsits, of the department of Latin; Professor Morris Jastrow, Jr., of the department of Semitics; Assistant Professor H. L. Crosby, of the department of Greek; Assistant Professor R. G. Kent, of the department of Indo-European philology; Dr. Edith H. Hall, of the University Museum; and a great number of present and past students of the University.

The morning session was presided over by Professor Walter Dennison, of Swarthmore College, the retiring president of the society. He first read a

letter from Dr. Hollis Godfrey, president of Drexel Institute, expressing his deep regret that a call to the West prevented him from welcoming the society, and emphasizing the idea that the educations styled liberal and vocational respectively are not exclusive of each other, but supplementary the one to the other. Following this, Dean Arthur J. Rowland, of the Institute, welcomed the society to the halls of the Institute and expressed the belief that the meeting of those who champion the liberal studies, in the Institute devoted to the vocational studies, would be of mutual benefit to both parties.

After a happy response to this word of greeting, Professor Dennison reviewed the work of the society for the past year, which lay mainly along the lines of four committees: membership, publicity, program, lectures. There are now nearly four hundred members; publicity has been secured both in the daily press and by a pamphlet describing the organization meeting; four meetings have been held, one of them jointly with the Friends' Educational Association; and a large number of lectures, many of them illustrated, are offered by members of the society, without charge except for expenses, which may be secured by schools and other organizations for the purpose of rousing interest in the liberal studies. Professor Rolfe was elected president of the society for the ensuing year.